

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Nail posts are formed integral with the side walls of the retainer and serve to hold ~~removable means for removably attaching the floor joist retainer body to the forms before the concrete is poured into the forms. Preferably, the removable means takes the forms of~~ nails, so that the nail posts hold the nails in a position where they can be hammered straight into the inside surface of an interior foundation wall form. Nails are sized such that when they are hammered, the pointed ends will extend approximately one-half inch straight into a wooden concrete form.

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 7, after line 5:

Another way of describing use of floor joist retainers 10 is as a method of positioning and supporting a floor joist within a concrete foundation formed by pouring concrete into forms using a floor joist retainer. That floor joist retainer has a floor joist retainer body having an open front, closed sides, a bottom, and a removable top, and is configured to receive and support an end of the floor joist positioned within the floor joist retainer body through the top and front. The floor joist retainer further includes an

intermediate structural plate interconnecting the sides and back of the floor joist retainer body, the intermediate structural plate being attached to the sides and back when the concrete is poured into the forms and removable after the concrete is poured, the floor joist retainer further including a retaining flange attached to the floor joist retainer body for engagement within the concrete foundation, and means for removably attaching the floor joist retainer body to the forms before the concrete is poured into the forms. This method includes the following steps: (1) positioning and attaching the floor joist retainer to a form with the removable top attached to the floor joist retainer body before the concrete is poured with the open front facing the form; (2) pouring the concrete into the forms; (3) curing the concrete; (4) removing the forms; (5) removing the intermediate structural plate from the floor joist retainer body; (6) removing the removable top from the floor joist retainer body; and (7) positioning the end of the floor joist into the floor joist retainer body.